

WI-188  
Taylor-White House  
Whitehaven  
Private

c. 1850-60

The Taylor-White house is a mid-nineteenth century two-story gable-front frame house that stands in a line of other nineteenth century dwellings which define Whitehaven's historic riverfront. The c. 1850 two-story house differs from most others along the street with its gable-front orientation, and its alternative architectural form helps to contribute to a diverse array of building styles for Whitehaven's principal avenue.

With its gable-front orientation and wide corner pilasters (covered with aluminum), the house appears to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century when this style was particularly favored on the lower Eastern Shore. The original owner and builder of this house, however, is uncertain due to a clouded chain of title prior to the 1880s. In October 1881 Zachariah Taylor, along with John W. Wingate, purchased an improved lot and wharf property in Whitehaven from John White for \$300. Seven years later, in April 1888, Zachariah Taylor and his wife Eliza E. Taylor, sold

"all that house and lot where these grantors now reside and also all that house and lot where the said Zachariah W. Taylor now carries on the Mercantile business with the wharf thereto"

for \$1525. The grantee, Samuel E. White, retained ownership through the balance of the nineteenth century and until 1918 when the property was transferred to Woodland A. Anderson, in whose family the house and lot remained until 1924.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: TAYLOR-WHITE HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-188

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-188

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic TAYLOR-WHITE HOUSE

and/or common PEACOCK HOUSE

### 2. Location

street & number 23820 River Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Whitehaven ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

### 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use                            |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation               |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:                       |

### 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Peacock

street & number 23826 River Street telephone no.:

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. liber

street & number folio

city, town state

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-188

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Condition</b>                         |                                       | <b>Check one</b>                            | <b>Check one</b>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |  |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Taylor-White house, commonly called the Peacock house, stands at 23820 River Street in the center of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces south with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating to the mid-nineteenth century (c. 1850-60), the two-story gable-front frame dwelling is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with aluminum siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the gable-front main block is a two-story, two-bay by one room rear wing.

The south (main) facade is an asymmetrical three-bay elevation with the first floor sheltered by a shed roofed porch highlighted by turned posts and decorative corner brackets. The front door has been replaced, and the adjacent windows have been substituted for a modern sliding door. The second floor is lighted by six-over-six sash windows, and a single six-over-six sash window pierces the upper gable. The eaves to the roof are slightly extended and boxed, and covered over pilasters trim the corner of the main block. Rising through the north gable end of the main house is an interior end brick chimney.

The east and west sides of the house are defined by six-over-six sash windows, and the back (north) wall is largely covered by the two-story, two-bay by one-room kitchen wing. There is a side door entrance on the south wall of the kitchen wing, and a single-story shed roofed section extends from the back wall.

The interior was not seen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-188

| Period  | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric          | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499            | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Taylor-White house is a mid-nineteenth century two-story gable-front frame house that stands in a line of other nineteenth century dwellings which define Whitehaven's historic riverfront. The c. 1850 two-story house differs from most others along the street with its gable-front orientation, and its alternative architectural form helps to contribute to a diverse array of building styles for Whitehaven's principal avenue.

With its gable-front orientation and wide corner pilasters (covered with aluminum), the house appears to date to the middle years of the nineteenth century when this style was particularly favored on the lower Eastern Shore. The original owner and builder of this house, however, is uncertain due to a clouded chain of title prior to the 1880s. In October 1881 Zachariah Taylor, along with John W. Wingate, purchased an improved lot and wharf property in Whitehaven from John White for \$300.(SPT 4/310) Seven years later, in April 1888, Zachariah Taylor and his wife Eliza E. Taylor, sold

"all that house and lot where these grantors now reside and also all that house and lot where the said Zachariah W. Taylor now carries on the Mercantile business with the wharf thereto"

for \$1525.(FMS 3/290) The grantee, Samuel E. White, retained ownership through the balance of the nineteenth century and until 1918 when the property was transferred to Woodland A. Anderson, in whose family the house and lot remained until 1924.(JCK 133/584)

Due to the altered condition of this frame house, the property falls into Category B, which identifies properties that should be preserved since they are structures exhibiting good architectural details and represent a good example of architectural development and style and support the character of the historic district.



WI-188  
TAYLOR-WHITE HOUSE  
23820 River Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title

1029/810                      Ted M. Crockett  
                                 Janet L. Crockett

to

2/8/1985                      Calvin D. Peacock  
                                 Susan L. Peacock  
                                 Lots 1 and 2

AJS 986/384                   Ted M. Crockett

to

4/2/1982                      Ted M. Crockett  
                                 Janet F. Crockett

AJS 856/283                   Hamilton P. LeCompte, Jr.

to

5/19/1976                      Ted M. Crockett

JWTS 569/401                   M. Vance Dolbey  
                                 Ruth K. Dolbey

to

9/16/1963                      Hamilton P. LeCompte, Jr.  
                                 Ruth R. LeCompte

JWTS 357/586                   Claude R. Willing, et al.

to

7/27/1953                      M. Vance Dolbey  
                                 Ruth K. Dolbey

WI-188  
TAYLOR-WHITE HOUSE  
23820 River Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

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JWTS 337/170

William Parks Young

to

2/18/1952

Addie R. Willing  
which upon the death of Addie R. Willing  
who died intestate the property passed  
to Charles R. Willing, et al.

JWTS 273/309

Mary R. Young, widow

to

11/29/1945

William Parks Young

JCK 133/584

Woodland A. Anderson  
Elsie L. Anderson

to

1/23/1924

Mary R. Young  
\$1600

JCK 124/353

Elsie L. Anderson

to

1/20/1922

Woodland A. Anderson

JCK 113/471

Woodland A. Anderson

to

9/5/1919

Elsie L. Anderson  
No. 5 All that tract of land lying and  
being on the north side of Main Street  
being the land conveyed to Woodland A.  
Anderson by Daniel J. Elliott 4/19/1906  
EAT 62/280



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TAYLOR-WHITE HOUSE  
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Chain of title continued

Page 3

No. 6 All that tract of land in the town  
of White Haven adjoining the lands of Susie  
Bloodsworth et al. being the same land that  
conveyed to Woodland Anderson by Samuel E.  
White 8/2/1918 JCK 109/250

JCK 8/2/1918

Samuel E. White

to

8/2/1918

Woodland A. Anderson

FMS 3/290

Zachariah H. Taylor  
Eliza E. Taylor

to

4/30/1888

Samuel E. White

\$1525 all that house and lot where these  
grantors now reside and also all that  
house and lot where the said Zachariah  
W. Taylor now carries on the Mercantile  
business with the wharf thereto attached  
and belonging on the Wicomico River and  
in said town of White Haven

SPT 4/310

John White

to

10/4/1881

Zachariah H. Taylor  
John W. Wingate

\$300 all that lot of ground with improvements  
thereon and wharf situated in front of  
said lot in Tyaskin at White Haven in the  
State and County aforesaid extending from  
the county road on the north to the  
Wicomico River on the South bounding  
thereon and from a lot of ground belonging  
to said John W. Wingate on the east to a  
lot of ground owned by Will Leatherbury on  
the west...

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Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

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FMS 3/288

Robert F. Bratten, Trustee to sell the  
land of Edward J. Elliott

to

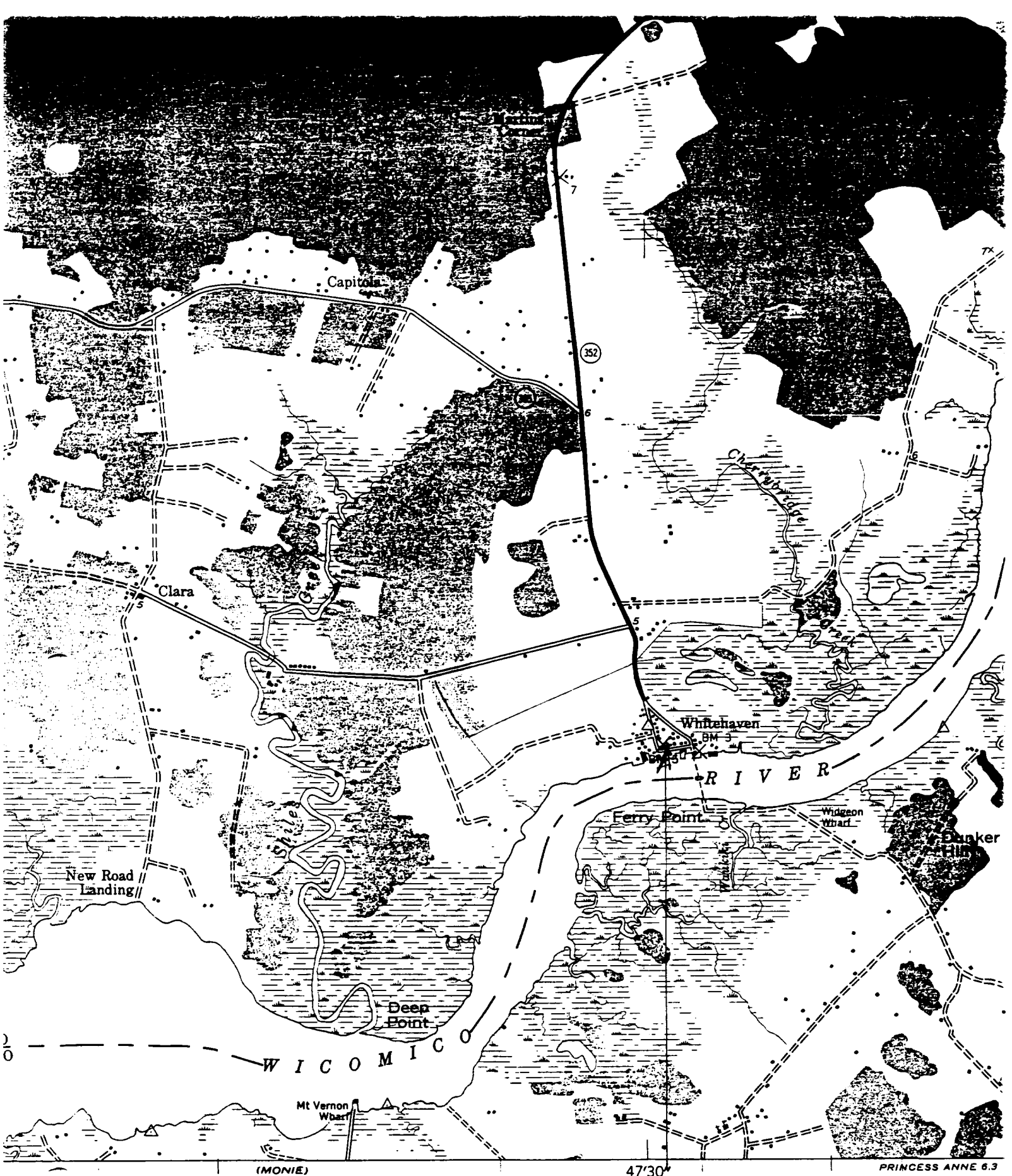
5/1/1888

Zachariah Taylor

\$105 all that house and lot situate in  
in the town of White Haven in said  
Wicomico County which is laid down  
as Lot No. two (2) in the plat &  
survey filed with said Trustees  
report containing 2 3/16 acres

[illegible]

W1-188 Taylor-White House  
Wiconico Co. Tax Map 65  
Precer 33



SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

W1-188

TAYLOR - WHITE HORSE  
WETIPAWIN, MD Q 40  
1942